

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /069 W  
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R 051125Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9061

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7421

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALUCTTA AND MADRAS FROM BOMBAY  
DTD JUN 5.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON THREAT FROM THE SEA

REF: A) NEW DELHI 7135; B) BOMBAY 1303

SECOND PART BLITZ EDITOR KARANJIA'S INTERVIEW WITH PM APPEARS  
JUNE 7 EDITION BLITZ TODAY. TEXT OF PORTION ON WHICH UNI INTERPRE-  
TATION REF A BASED FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: AN IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE IS THAT WHATEVER LITTLE SUCCESS  
WE CAN CLAIM HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE FACE OF NATURAL CALAMITIES  
LIKE DROUGHT AS WELL AS GROWING DANGERS TO THE NATION FROM OUTSIDE  
WHICH MAKE INCREASING EXPENDITURE ON DEFENSE AND SECURITY  
IMPERATIVE.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY EVERY TIME I SAY SOMETHING ABOUT  
DANGERS TO THE NATION THERE ARE LOUD COMPLAINTS THAT I AM TRYING  
TO "CRY WOLF."

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DANGERS TO THE NATION

Q. NOBODY WITH ANY REALISATION OF THE DANGERS AROUND US WOULD CALL IT "CRYING WOLF". I AM COMING TO THIS ISSUE IN MY LAST QUESTION WHICH HAS A BEARING ON GUJARAT BECAUSE OF ITS BEING ON THE WESTERN COAST. YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE RECENTLY WARNED THE NATION OF A "THREAT FROM THE SEAS", BESIDES THE DOUBLE THREAT POSED ON OUR LAND FRONTIERS IN THE NORTH. COULD YOU EXPLAIN THIS NEW THREAT? RMENA. DONT YOU SEE THAT IF THERE IS A WAR IN THE FUTURE, IT WILL NOT ONLY BE A LAND WAR BUT ALSO A SEA WAR? THIS IS WHAT I MEANT. THIS MAKES EVEN THOSE OF OUR STATES WHICH DO NOT HAVE DIRECT LAND FRONTIERS WILQ ANY OTHER COUNTRY VULNERABLE.

Q. I SEE YOUR POINT. WHAT'S OUR DEFENCE AGAINST THIS NEW PERIL? THE SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN HAD IT VERY MUCH IN MIND WHEN HE SUGGESTED AN ECONOMIC UNION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN NATIONS, MAYBE, WITH JOINT NAVAL CO-OPERATION.

A. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS FEEL ABOUT IT.

WE, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY SUPPORT INCREASING ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS; BUT WE ARE NOT FOR ANY KIND OF MILITARY ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THIS ATTRACTS OPPOSITION BECAUSE OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THIS ATTRACTS OPPOSITION FROM OTHER PEOPLE. THAT MAY AGGRAVATE TENSION INSTEAD OF EASING IT. SO IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF ALL THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE OCEAN GOT TOGETHER TO ASSESS WHAT THE DANGERS ARE, MORE IN THE ECONOMIC THAN MILITARY FIELDS. UNQUOTE. BANE UNQUOTE. SCHNEIDER

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